

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS21434

The recent construction of a new elementary school in the Plummer-Worley School District represents the first use of the state failsafe provided through HB 743 (2006), ensuring that no child in Idaho will attend school in an unsafe facility. While the process worked successfully and smoothly in this instance, it highlighted two issues that could become problems in future cases. The first issue is that the state panel that is established to review these cases has no access to funds if additional planning and design work must be completed prior to the panel making a decision. The second is that there is no provision for dealing with construction cost overruns. This legislation deals with the first issue by allowing the panel to expend up to \$150,000 from a dedicated funding source to develop additional plans, if necessary. The second issue is dealt with by clarifying that the panel can request that the Legislature appropriate additional funds from the same dedicated fund, in the event of construction cost overruns.

FISCAL NOTE

No fiscal impact to the General Fund. The legislation allows up to \$150,000 to be expended from the Public Schools Facilities Cooperative Fund to develop additional school construction or renovation plans, if needed by the state's review panel. Any requests for additional appropriations from this fund for construction cost overruns would be subject to legislative approval.

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